



Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee  
Additional Estimates 2024-25  
Thursday, 27 February 2025  
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 10.58pm in Committee Room 2S1.

The Committee called the Social Services Portfolio, discussing the following topics:

National Disability Insurance Agency

- Recent NDIS reforms and updates on its implementation;
- Support Needs Assessment workforce, including increases to frontline workers;
- Role of navigators being considered;
- Pathways for participants exiting the justice setting;
- Fraud Fusion Taskforce and associated activities;
- The sustainability of the NDIS and updates on achieving an eight per cent growth target;
- NDIS eligibility reassessments and review process;
- Foundational Supports Strategy;
- The Arts and Music Therapy Independent Review;
- Intra-plan inflation model; and
- Progress on the recommendations from the Disability Royal Commission.

NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission

- Funding of data and regulatory functions;
- De-registration of providers, including compliance programs and education;
- Unauthorised restrictive practices; and
- Media reports surrounding taxi drivers exploiting people with disability by overcharging, meter tampering and unauthorised account charges.

Department of Social Services (DSS) – Outcome 3

- Development of foundational supports, including Primary Health Networks.

DSS – Outcome 4

- National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness;
- Rates of homelessness in Australia; and
- Provision of \$100 million for crisis and transitional housing.

DSS – Outcome 1

- Income apportionment;
- Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee;
- Social Security payments and indexation; and
- Paid Parental Leave Scheme.

#### DSS – Whole of Portfolio/Corporate Matters

- Appropriate use of non-disclosure agreements;
- Information advertising; and
- Staff satisfaction in the department.

#### DSS – Outcome 2

- Compulsory income management;
- Data relating to the Cashless Debit Card and Enhanced Income Management;
- Access to services and brokerage;
- Letters drafted by DSS published by the Monthly and the ABC regarding the National Redress Scheme payments;
- The National Partnership Agreement support domestic, family and sexual violence initiatives between the Commonwealth and states;
- Deployment of 500 new community sector workers;
- Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches to End Gender-Based Violence;
- Innovative Perpetrator Responses; and
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Action Plan.

#### Australian Institute of Family Studies

- AIFS' current state of research.

#### Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission

- Consultation involving the commission around domestic, family and sexual violence.

#### Services Australia – Whole of Portfolio/Corporate Matters and Outcome 1

- Claims data for various payments;
- Cyber capability in Services Australia, including its investigative and deterrence mechanisms;
- Service delivery pressures and resources from the Commonwealth to reduce wait times;
- Income apportionment;
- Services Australia Hobart office fit out;
- Debt collection and AI interventions;
- ICT changes required to operate the New Aged Care Act;
- Special Benefits Payments to the NZYQ cohort following their release from immigration detention;
- Claims backlogs and service standards;
- Crisis payments for domestic violence victims; and
- Education and training costs within Services Australia; and
- Contract pertaining to speech writer for former Minister Shorten.

This concludes the committee's examination of the 2024–25 Additional Estimates.

Please don't hesitate to contact the secretariat on 02 6277 3515 or [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au) if you require any further information.